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Uca, while *Homarus* remains ; in the mollusk the latest vagaries of the systematist are introduced, while in the worms a more conservative course has been adopted. Here and there errors occur. Thus the nemertines are regarded as a class of Plathelminthes, and (p. 164) the flatworms are stated to lack an anus. Under the *Gephyræa*, *Sipunculus nudus* is included as an American form, while *Echiurus* and *Thalassema* are ignored. Yet these are minor blemishes, and the work will prove most useful not only to the casual visitor to the shore but to the more experienced naturalist as well. K.

PHYSIOLOGY.

Reactions of Hydra to an Electric Current. — Pearl¹ has observed that *Hydra viridis*, when attached by the foot and placed in the path of a constant current of weak intensity, brings the long axis of the body in line with the current, the oral end being toward the anode. This orientation is accomplished by a contraction on the anode side of the body. When the animal is not attached by the foot, the anode side still remains the side of contraction, even though the oral end may be turned toward the cathode. In addition to orientation, the current may call forth general contractions. Separate pieces of the hydra react in much the same way as whole animals. Buds and parent animals are independent in their reactions, the buds showing essentially the same reactions as adults. P.

Evolution of Pigment. — The interest which biologists have shown in the chemical activities of protoplasm has evinced itself in the study of pigment as a protoplasmic product. Bohn's² contribution to this subject is a timely *résumé* of some of the more important recent results. The pigments are classified as hydrocarbons, derivatives of chromatin, and derivatives of the aromatic series. The vegetable pigments are described under the heads of chromogenic bacteria and chloroleucites. The occurrence, migration, and transformation of animal pigments occupies much of the volume. The author believes that in a given cell there may be a struggle between

¹ Pearl, R. The Reactions of Hydra to the Constant Current, *Amer. Journ. Physiol.*, vol. v (1901), pp. 301-320.

² Bohn, G. *L'Évolution du Pigment*. Paris, Carré et Naud, 1901. 96 pp.